Functioning of FBI in Other Countries

4911. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Federal Bureau of Investigation would be setting up its office in New Delhi in order to combat international terrorism and narco-terrorism and India would be its ninth country to have the office;

(b) whether from the Indian point of view one interesting prospect may be the coordination among India, Pakistan and the United States in the fight against terrorism;

(c) if so, whether Government have checked up its functioning in other world capitals like Beijing, Moscow, and Islamabad; and

(d) whether Government have ensured that the functioning of internal agencies like CBI, RAW etc., would not be adversely affected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) It has been decided by mutual consultations to allow the US Embassy to augment its strength in New Delhi for opening a Legal Attache Office. Such offices are normally manned by two FBI Officers. India would be the 32nd country to have such an office.

(b) The purpose of the Legal Attache Office in New Delhi is to haise with Indian law enforcement agencies, particularly involving cases of financial crimes and terrorism that the two countries are pursuing jointly. The opening of the Legal Attache Office may be seen in the context of growing Indo-US bilateral co-operation on counter-terrorism the setting up of a Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism, the signing of the Extradition Treaty between India and the United States, and the proposed negotiation on the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, all of which serve to enhance the institutional co-operation between the two countries in this area.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Our law enforcement agencies have a co-operative relationship with the FBI. The Legal Attache office will enable more effective co-operation among the agencies of India and the United States.